OUT OF TIME

Issue No. 6 *Out of Control--Lesbian Committee to Support Women Political Prisoners* September 1990

FREE NORMA JEAN CROY!

Norma Jean Croy, a Shasta Indian and a lesbian, is in prison for murder even though she wasn't carrying a gun and never fired a shot. Patrick "Hooty" Croy, her brother, Jaspar Alford, a cousin, and she were convicted of killing a police officer in 1978. Both Patrick and Norma Jean were shot in the back by police during the incident in Siskyou County, CA. Patrick received the death penalty, Jaspar served 8 eight years, and Norma got life.

In May 1990 in San Francisco, Patrick Croy was freed from death row by an excellent defense team that included Native American people. They told a tale of terror, anti-Indian racism, and Native Americans being hunted down and shot in the back by out-of-control police. Evidence presented in Patrick's retrial but withheld from Norma's original trial showed that the fatally wounded police officer had a high blood alcohol level. The jury found that the incident was provoked by racism toward Native Americans in the Yreka area, and that police misconduct led to the officer's death.

The presentation of a cultural defense on behalf of Native Peoples is a long time coming in u.s. courts. Sentences against Native Americans are longer and many times more severe than sentences against whites for the same crimes. In several states Native American children are not allowed the "benefits" of juvenile hall, and are placed in adult prisons.

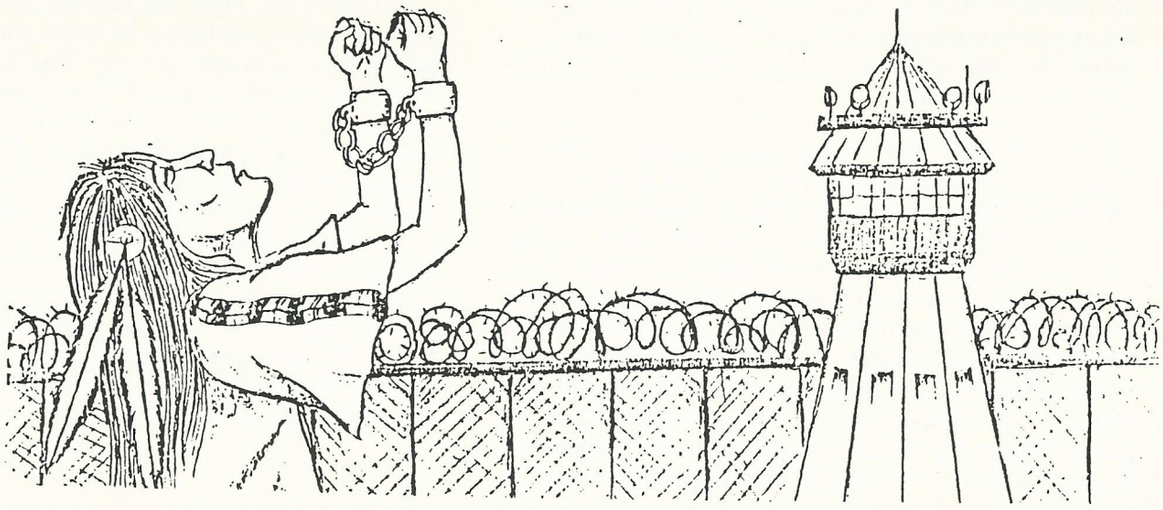
Norma Jean has spent 12 years as a hostage of the u.s. government in a California prison. She says the outcome of her trial in 1978 was just a continuation of the discrimination and unfair treatment that she experienced all her life. She has been before the parole board four times, the latest being in May--two weeks after her brother's acquittal. At that hearing Norma Jean was denied parole despite pleas for her release by Patrick's legal defense, the recommendation of the California Superior judge who ruled on Patrick's retrial, and support from many concerned individuals.

Patrick's defense attorneys are committing themselves to freeing Norma Jean. Funds are needed for community support activities, publicity and for her personal needs. Send your support to:

Free Norma Jean Croy Defense Committee
473 Jackson St.
San Francisco, CA 94111
(415) 986-5591

You can write to Norma Jean Croy #14293 at LBRM 322u, Frontera, CA 91720.

Out of Control will continue to publicize information about Norma Jean's case and fight for her retrial and release.



RESISTANCE CONSPIRACY *CONTINUES*

The defendants in the Resistance Conspiracy case have reached a plea agreement with the u.s. government. All charges will be dismissed against Alan Berkman, Tim Blunk and Susan Rosenberg; they have already been convicted of conspiracy in earlier trials and could argue that this case constituted double jeopardy. Marilyn Buck, Linda Evans and Laura Whitehorn will plead guilty to conspiracy and the Capitol bombing;they will get 15 years each. Laura will also plead guilty to one of the five counts in her outstanding Baltimore indictment and get another 5 for that. The actual plea will be presented to the judge on September 7, and sentencing will be in the middle of October.

The plea negotiations were prompted by Alan's recurrence of cancer. With the Resistance Conspiracy Case charges dismissed, Alan has a much better chance of winning parole and recuperating from chemotherapy on the Outside. The letter writing campaign for Alan's parole continues.

A petition campaign around the sentencing of Marilyn, Laura and Linda is also under way. Linda (an esteemed Dyke From Hell) is already doing 35 years for buying 4 legal guns with false I.D. Marilyn is doing 70 years. Like all political prisoners, their sentences are outrageously long

cont. on next page

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cont. from previous page
compared to the average. Now the government will ask the judge to sentence consecutively. (e.g. Marilyn will end up with a total 85 year sentence) The judge has the option to run the new sentences concurrently with the time the sisters are already serving. Enough is enough. We want to get as many signatures as possible to show the judge these women are wanted back in their communities ASAP.

The lesbian and gay community has already done a great job in supporting this case. WE are largely responsible for the fact that the government is unable to isolate these defendants and paint them as terrorists. Because the government's ploy was already exposed, the defendants were able to forego a trial and enter a plea in order to save Alan's life and go on with their own lives. The new sentencing campaign gives us another opportunity to show support for the sisters who took responsibility for bombing the u.s. Capitol in response to the invasion of Grenada. It also gives us another opportunity to support Laura and Linda who have taken alot of extra shit for being out dykes. Please contact us to help fill out petitions. Call 415-285-1340. The deadline is the middle of Oct. 1990.

L to R: Linda, Marilyn, Laura, Susan

MORE AND MORE RESISTANCE!

RELEASE SILVIA. A committee has been formed to demand that the u.s. Justice Department uphold its treaty agreements and release Silvia Baraldini to the Italian government. Silvia is an anti-imperialist political prisoner, and an Italian citizen. After her conviction for support for the Black Liberation Army and participation in the liberation of Assata Shakur from prison, she was sentenced to 43 years in prison. The Italian government wants her released to them, where she will receive better treatment. The Justice Department has refused because they do not think 8 years in u.s. prisons (including 2 at the infamous High Security Unit at Lexington) is enough punishment. For more information, contact Release Silvia! c/o Out of Control, Box 30, 3543 18th St, SF,CA 94110.

HUNGER STRIKE. For the last 7 months OOC has been reporting on the progress of a hunger strike by political prisoners in Spain. On May 26, after 177 days of not eating Jose Manuel Sevillano died in a prison in Madrid. Thirty-nine other prisoners have already passed 225 days of the longest hunger strike ever recorded. The strike has been prolonged by the use of force feeding--a practice that has been condemned as torture by international human rights organizations. Many of the prisoners have been fighting for collective living conditions in prison and an end to the government policy of "social reinsertion," the dispersal of all political prisoners to 87 prisons throughout Spain and its territories.

Many demonstrations in solidarity with the strikers have occurred across W. Europe and N. America. Thus far the Spanish government has refused offers for mediation by Red Cross, Spanish human rights groups, the European Parliament and a Spanish Archbishop. Letters of protest can be sent to Ambassador J. Santamaria, Embassy of Spain, 529 14th St. NW, Washington, DC 20009. Letters in solidarity with hunger strikers can be sent to AFAPP de Madrid, Apartada de Correos 15220, 28080 Madrid, Spain.

PALESTINE. There are two organizations working to improve prison conditions in Israel for Palestinians and those who support their struggle. The Women's Organization for Political Prisoners (WOFPP) has been in existence for several years; the Committee for Juvenile Political Prisoners (CJPP) started in Jan. 1990. Both groups put out newsletters that give updates on the prisons and the prisoners. Included are addresses of individual prisoners who wish to receive letters. They also ask that letters be written to state officials to protest conditions. Their expserience has indicated that pressure coming from outside Israel is very effective and can improve specific situations. To receive the newsletters or more information write WOFPP, PO Box 31811, Tel Aviv 61318 Israel or CJPP, PO Box 23649, Tel Aviv 69177 Israel.

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